

News Release



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For Immediate Release

AAMC Commends Inclusion of Increased NIH Funding in 21st Century Cures Discussion Draft

Washington, D.C., April 29, 2015—AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) President and CEO Darrell G. Kirch, MD, issued the following statement about the inclusion of language that would authorize and provide additional funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the 21st Century Cures discussion draft released today by bipartisan leaders of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce:

“The AAMC applauds House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Fred Upton (R-Mich.), Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-Colo.), Energy and Commerce Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), Health Subcommittee Chair Joe Pitts (R-Pa.), and Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-Texas) for coming together to produce a bipartisan 21st Century Cures discussion draft.

We commend the committee leaders for drafting language that would authorize and provide increased funding for the NIH, including \$10 billion over the next five years in mandatory funding through an NIH Innovation Fund. We are encouraged the committee leadership recognizes the critical importance of maintaining NIH as a national priority. NIH funded-research is essential if we are to continue to improve our nation’s health, sustain our leadership in medical research, and remain competitive in today’s global information and innovation-based economy. Research means hope for patients and families suffering from serious illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer’s, depression, and Parkinson’s.

While we are still reviewing the full text of the discussion draft, we look forward to working with members of Congress as they work on this legislation to ensure sustained funding growth for the full spectrum of biomedical research.”

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The Association of American Medical Colleges is a not-for-profit association representing all 141 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations,

the AAMC represents 148,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, and 115,000 resident physicians. Additional information about the AAMC and U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals is available at www.aamc.org/newsroom.